AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed outermost backside and bodyside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, a central portion of the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and the backing layer defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

a first skin adherent and hydrophobic facing layer directly secured only to the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer and surrounding the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the first facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing; and

a second skin adherent and hydrophobic facing layer directly bonded to and coextensive with the proximal surface of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the second facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and being co-planar with the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer carrying the first facing layer, a periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first facing layer, the second facing layer defining a predetermined, grid pattern of through extending apertures arranged across the second facing layer and non-apertured regions surrounding the apertures;

wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing consists the proximal surfaces of the first and second facing layers;

wherein the first and second facing ~~layer is composed of~~ layers are each discrete layers formed from a ~~skin adherent hydrophobic~~ silicone gel compound, ~~the thickness of the non-apertured regions consisting the silicone gel compound~~ the first facing layer having greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer;

wherein in a 90° peel-off test from a stainless steel surface, the tackiness of the first facing layer is within the range of 0.5 N to 5.0 N, and the second facing layer is within the range of 0.05 N – 1.0 N.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the distal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 19. Cancelled) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer has greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the peripheral edges of the absorbent core have a bevel extending downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis thereof from the distal surface to the proximal surface thereof.

Claims 21-28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is devoid of apertures and prevents moisture transfer through the border section of the backing layer.

Claim 30. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the apertures of the second facing layer extend in a straight manner through the thickness of the second facing layer.